

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0517

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 25654

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, UR, VM, US

SUBJ: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON AMBASSADOR

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR KOUZNETSOV MADE A COURTESY CALL ON
AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 5.

2. MOST OF THE DISCUSSION INVOLVED INDOCHINA. SOVIET
AMBASSADOR PRESSED THE AMBASSADOR ON U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD
NEGOTIATIONS WITH HANOI. AMBASSADOR REPEATED THAT THERE
WOULD BE NO POSSIBILITY FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS AS
LONG AS VIETNAM INSISTS ON ECONOMIC AID. VIETNAMESE
MUST UNDERSTAND THAT AS FACT. AMBASSADOR ASKED SOVIET
AMBASSADOR IF VIETNAMESE HAD ACTUALLY CHANGED THEIR
POSITION ON THIS SCORE AS THEY HAVE IMPLIED. KOUZNETSOV,
WHO HAS LONG BEEN INVOLVED IN VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS, WAS
EVASIVE. HE SAID ALL QUESTIONS COULD BE RESOLVED IF
PARTIES REALLY INTERESTED IN RELATIONS. THERE WAS
NOTHING IN KOUZNETSOV'S COMMENTS THAT HE THINKS THAT THE
VIETNAMESE HAVE ACTUALLY DROPPED AID AS A PRECONDITION.

3. SOVIET AMBASSADOR ASKED THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER U.S.
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ATTITUDE TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM
INFLUENCED BY SINO-VIETNAMESE DIFFICULTIES. AMBASSADOR
TOLD HIM THAT DECISION ON ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH
ANY COUNTRY IS FOR U.S. ALONE TO MAKE, BUT OUR VIEW OF
NORMALIZATION PROCESS WITH VIETNAM TAKES INTO ACCOUNT
VIETNAMESE BEHAVIOR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE ESCALATING
HOSTILITY BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM.

4. SOVIET AMBASSADOR ALSO MADE THE FOLLOWING OTHER POINTS:

-- SINO-VIETNAMESE TENSIONS ARE INCREASING AND HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT SIGNIFICANT BORDER CLASHES.

-- VIETNAMESE FEEL REAL NEED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS. PHAM VAN DONG'S TRIP IS SOLELY DEVOTED TO THAT END AND TO TRY TO PREVENT CHINESE MANIPULATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES AGAINST VIETNAM. CHINESE IN THAILAND TRYING HARD TO FIND WAYS TO EMBARRASS DONG AND MAR HIS TRIP, BUT SOVIET AMBASSADOR DID NOT DETAIL WHAT CHINESE WERE DOING.

-- REITERATING HIS LONG INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR SAID VIETNAMESE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH INDOCHINA FEDERATION WERE PART OF A LONGTIME ANTI-FRENCH/ANTI-US POLICY. VIETNAMESE HAD MADE NO EFFORT TO ESTABLISH INDOCHINA FEDERATION SINCE END OF VIETNAMESE WAR. HE SAID HE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN ON THIS POINT.

-- KOUZNETSOV SAID THE CAMBODIAN-VIETNAMESE DIFFERENCES COULD HAVE BEEN SETTLED LONG AGO HAD NOT THE CHINESE INTERVENED. CHINESE RESPONSIBLE FOR CAMBODIAN INTRANSIGENCE AND WERE INCREASING THEIR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO PHNOM PENH.

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5. CONVERSATION WAS GENERALLY NON POLEMICAL AND FAIRLY DIRECT. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

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